



# **USA College Day Seminar: Study in the USA**

# Health & Safety



# Ways Fulbright Can Support You:

- Online: US Admission Guide
- Enewsletter & Online Communities
- Events
- Sutton Trust US Programme
- Awards Programme
  - Postgraduate Scholarships
  - Summer Institutes
- Advising Enquiry Service (Email, Phone)



[www.fulbright.org.uk](http://www.fulbright.org.uk)

## Choosing a University: Factors to Consider

- **Type of university**
  - Four year vs. two year
  - Public vs. private
  - Large vs. small
  - Ivy League (and other issues with prestige!)
  - “Public Ivies”
  - Association of American Universities or Carnegie Classification of Very High Research Activity
  - Liberal arts colleges
  - Land grant universities
  - All-women’s colleges
  - Specialist institutions
  - US universities abroad

## Choosing a University: Factors to Consider

- **Academics**
  - Competitiveness of admission
  - Majors offered
  - Enrichment opportunities: Study abroad, internships, co-ops, undergrad research, honours programmes, etc.
- **Location**
  - Cost of living & lifestyle issues of being in urban, suburban or rural areas
  - Proximity to public transport / airports
  - Cultural differences
  - Weather and climate
  - Centres of excellence for certain fields
- **Costs and availability of university funding**
  - Reduce up-front costs
  - For university funding
- **Campus life** - atmosphere; activities; campus size; student body

# Application Components:

- Application form
- Admissions exam scores
- Transcript and/or school report
- 2-3 essays
- 2-3 recommendation letters
- Application fee

# Selection Criteria:

- Academic achievement
  - GCSEs
  - Predicted A levels
- Academic potential: Admissions exam scores
- Extracurricular involvement
- Personal attributes
  - Interest in your academic field of choice
  - Character
  - Leadership abilities
  - Reasons for wanting to attend the university

# Transcripts:

- Listing of your academic qualifications and marks (Years 10 – 13)
- Provide your school / counsellor with information about what to include in a transcript:
  - GCSE scores
  - AS levels
  - Predicted A-levels or ‘working at’ marks
  - Academic honours
  - Information about other qualifications earned
  - Information about the school
  - Years attended
- Signed, sealed and on school lettering head



# Essays:

- Importance of admissions essays
- Opportunity to set yourself apart and showcase your unique qualities as an applicant
- 1-3 essay questions per university
- Likely able to re-use elements of essays for different universities

# 2017-2018 Common Application

## Essay Prompts:

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

## Tips for Success:

- Address the essay question fully
- Use clear, concise language
- Avoid vague or empty statements, clichés and cultural references that may not translate well to a US audience
- If you re-use an essay, be careful to double-check that all references within the text are to the correct university
- Proofread extensively
- Most importantly, be yourself! Don't give the admissions officers the answers you think they want to hear; give them the truth.

# Recommendation Letters:

- Ask someone who knows you well, both in and out of the classroom
- Letter should be a marketing tool for you as an applicant
- Consider meeting with your referee to discuss letter
- Make sure referee is aware of deadlines and paperwork to complete
- Above all, encourage referees to be enthusiastic, positive, descriptive and anecdotal and avoid being restrained and too modest



## Exceptions:

- Law
- Medicine

# Application Process Recap

Selection Criteria	Application Component	Completed By
Academic achievement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GCSEs</li> <li>• Predicted A levels</li> </ul>	Transcript	School counselor with information from student
Academic potential <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Admissions exam scores</li> </ul>	SAT/ACT scores sent to unis	Student
Extracurricular involvement	Application form – activities	Student
	Essays	Student
	Reference letters	2 teachers and a school counselor
Personal attributes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interest in your academic field of choice</li> <li>• Character</li> <li>• Leadership abilities</li> <li>• Reasons for wanting to attend the university</li> </ul>	Application form – activities	Student
	Essays	Student
	Reference letters	2 teachers and a school counselor

# ACT and/or SAT I SAT II (Subject) Tests

- Multiple Choice Standardized Tests
  - Each with optional essay – no choice of title
  - Purpose and use
  - Test overlap
  - Which to choose / when to take
- 
- Michèle Collias      email: [sw-mc@hotmail.com](mailto:sw-mc@hotmail.com)
  - Stand number:      82 in the Exhibitor Hall



# ACT

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- Multiple Choice Standardized Tests
- Offered 5 times/year in the UK:  
Sept, Oct, Dec, April, & June
- Register at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) for ACT (with or w/o essay)
- Scored 0 – 36 each section plus 'composite' (average of all four): check the criteria of the universities in which you are interested: what scores / do you need the essay?
- No negative grading



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- 4 Multiple Choice Sections

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- Grammar: 75 questions in 45 minutes:
  - 5 passages that test grammar rules & rhetorical usage
- Math: 60 questions in 60 minutes
  - Algebra I & II, Geometry, Functions, Complex #s
  - Some topics aren't covered in GCSE & only late in A-level
- Reading: 40 questions in 35 minutes
  - 4 passages in order: Fiction, Social Science, Humanities, Natural Science
- Science: 40 questions in 35 minutes
  - 6 passages that test data, chart & graph interpretation
- Optional Essay

# ACT Essay: 40 Minutes

Single paragraph followed by three perspectives

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Students are asked to:

- analyse the strengths & weaknesses of each perspective
- take a position on the question, supporting their ideas with logical reasoning and detailed, persuasive examples or ideas from their knowledge and/or experience
- explain the relationship between their ideas and those of the perspectives given.

# SAT I (Reasoning) and SAT II (Subject) Tests

- Multiple Choice Standardized Tests (SAT I has 1 optional essay – no choice of title)
- Offered 6 times/year in the UK:  
Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, May, & June
- Register at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for SAT I or up to three SAT II on any given date
- Scored 200 – 800: check the criteria of the universities in which you are interested
- Negative grading on subject tests

# SAT I

4 (or 5) sections comprising:

2 Verbal Reasoning: Grammar & Reading

2 Mathematical Reasoning: with & w/o calculator

1 Optional 50-minute Essay

each scored from 200 – 800 points



# Verbal Reasoning Content

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Reading: 52 questions in 65 minutes

5 passages (1 paired) testing:

speed, accuracy, focus, concentration, data analysis from charts & graphs, vocabulary in context

Grammar: 44 questions in 35 minutes

4 passages testing:

knowledge of grammar and rhetorical usage



# Mathematical Reasoning Content

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Non-Calculator: 20 questions in 25 minutes

15 M/C questions & 5 Grids

Calculator: 38 questions in 55 minutes

30 M/C questions & 8 Grids

- Algebra (I and II): equations, number properties, absolute value, functions
- Geometry: shapes, graphs, data analysis
- Logic and Reasoning: word problems, statistics, probability, Venn diagrams, chart & graphs
- Skills tested: math knowledge, careful reading, and concentration

# Essay Content

50-minute task based on a two-page document that must be analysed

- An analysis of an author's ability to express ideas powerfully and persuade an audience through:
  - Use of evidence (facts, examples)
  - Use of reasoning (development of ideas & connection of claims to evidence)
  - Stylistic or persuasive elements (word choice/appeals to emotion)
- Rather than offer the student's opinion, the essay should determine the most relevant features of the passage and explain how the author builds a persuasive argument.

# SAT II

1 hour each multiple choice format

Subjects offered:

Literature

US or World History

Math Level 1 or 2

Sciences: Biology E/M, Chemistry, Physics

Languages: French, German, Italian, Latin, Modern Hebrew, Spanish

Languages (w/ Listening – Nov ONLY): Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Spanish





# Score Choice

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- You request the exam board to report your results to universities
- Choose for your permanent record
  - any date for SAT I or ACT
  - any subject for SAT II
- Take the exam as often as you need to get your best score

# How to Prepare

- Register and complete 'Question of the Day' from the tests makers - DO IT every day!
- Read quality writing as often as you can
- Learn the format and directions for each section/type of question of any test before you take it
- Practice as many tests as possible
- Take a specialized course: come see me at **Stand 82**





# Funding Your Studies

# Four Sources of Funding:

1. Scholarships and need-based aid from US universities
2. Scholarships from external organisations
3. Personal/family funds
4. A note about Loans

# Tips for Success - Funding:

- Start your scholarship search early. Be willing to put in extra time and effort to seek out and apply for scholarships.
- Be flexible in choosing universities. Try to minimise living costs and look for best buy universities.
- Note you may need to 'collect' funding from multiple sources.
- Other sources of financial assistance will likely be available once the student gets to the US, but these often cannot be taken into account in visa interview stage.

## Funding Resources:

- US universities' website
- Online scholarship searches:
  - [www.fundingusstudy.org](http://www.fundingusstudy.org)
  - [www.iefaf.org](http://www.iefaf.org)
  - <http://www.edupass.org/finaid>
  - <http://www.globalgrant.com>
- Fulbright monthly enewsletter

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